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in the air. The process is the same as when earth is concerned.

F. S. DELLENBAUGH

226 W. 78TH ST.,
NEW YORK,
March 29, 1912

REPORTED DISCOVERY OF RADIUM IN NORTHERN
ARKANSAS

IN this day, new results of scientific work make such rapid appearance that the public in general are very credulous about reported discoveries however unreasonable they may appear, and even scientists are cautious about expressing adverse opinions concerning such, without having carefully investigated them. Apropos of this, a short article that some weeks ago appeared in a St. Louis paper, reporting an alleged discovery of radium in northern Arkansas and naming the writer as authority for its existence, has been somewhat widely copied by the press, and has brought numerous letters to the writer from different parts of the country from New York to California. Among these have been letters from scientists and those engaged in commercial work. The foundation for the report is as follows:

In the latter part of February there came to the writer's office, then at the University of Arkansas, a Mr. Leib, of Bentonville, that state, who brought a cigar box of earthy material which he said came from a cave near his home. It was just such material as might come from any limestone cave. With the box was a photograph which Mr. Leib said had been made by exposing the box containing the material before a camera, for several hours, in an absolutely dark room. The picture was of about the distinctness of an ordinary X-ray photograph. It plainly showed the box, the string about it and the knots in the string.

Mr. Leib was told by both Professor A. A. Steel, of the University of Arkansas, and myself that while the photograph was interesting, careful investigation was necessary before it could be stated that the substance contains any radium or other radio-active material. For this purpose he was advised to

send some of it to Professor B. B. Boltwood, of Yale University.

Such is the basis of a newspaper story that seems to have attracted a good deal of attention.

A. H. PURDUE

STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
NASHVILLE, TENN.,
April 17, 1912

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCE-
MENT OF SCIENCE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: It is generally agreed that the recent Washington meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and its affiliated societies was one of the most enjoyable, helpful and inspiring meetings ever held in this country. The attendance was large, the programs well filled, the discussions earnest and the efforts of the local committees fully successful in providing ample means for social intercourse without too much distraction from the work of the meeting.

Nevertheless, that meeting probably marks the parting of the ways, and it behooves all of us who have been and still are loyal to the American Association for the Advancement of Science to give earnest consideration to the question of the future policy of that union of scientific workers which has in the past done so much to deserve its title.

Two of the fundamental principles of the association are: first, by means of migratory meetings to arouse interest in scientific matters in different sections of the country; second, to bring together workers in all branches of science, for mutual acquaintance and for the development of broader view-points than is possible from too close absorption in one's own special line.

These ideals could be and have been well realized in the past when the average attendance on such meetings was not too large for the hotel accommodations of most of our cities and when it was usually possible to have meetings of various sections in one building, thus enabling closely related sections to meet in adjacent rooms.